

ATTACHMENT B Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A solid support for a biochemical assay, which support is substantially linear or ~~planer~~ planar in shape, incorporates a spatially varying pattern for identification purposes, and has an anodised metal surface layer, probe molecules for the biochemical assay being bound to the surface layer, ~~the largest~~ all external dimension dimensions of the support being ~~in the case of a substantially linear support along its length and in the case of a substantially planar support in the plane of the support, and said largest external dimension being~~ less than 100 μm , whereby an aqueous suspension for performing a bioassay is formable from a plurality of the supports.

2. (Original) A support according to claim 1, wherein the surface layer has a cellular structure anodisation layer, the growth direction of the cells of the anodisation layer being perpendicular to the plane of the surface layer.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A support according to claim 1, wherein the surface layer is of anodised aluminum.

5. (Original) A support according to claim 1, wherein the surface layer is porous.

6. (Previously Presented) A support according to claim 5, wherein the pore size of the surface layer is approximately matched to the size of the bound probe molecules.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) A support according to claim 1, wherein said pattern is a barcode.
9. (Original) A support according to claim 8, wherein the barcode is a linear barcode.
10. (Original) A support according to claim 1, in which the pattern comprises a series of holes in the support.
11. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating the supports of claim 1, comprising sputter coating a flat surface with metal layer, anodising the metal layer, and lithographically patterning and etching the metal layer to reveal the supports.
12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 13, wherein said surface consists of layer of soluble material on a rigid substrate, and the method further comprises releasing the supports from said surface by solvation of the soluble material.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the soluble material is a resist.
14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, wherein the anodising is carried out at a voltage of up to 150 V.
15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14, wherein the anodising is carried out at a voltage in the range from 4 V to 30 V.
16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, further comprising binding probe molecules to the anodised metal layer.
17. (Withdrawn) A optical reader for reading the patterns and identifying the supports according to claim 7.
18. (Withdrawn) A reader according to claim 17, operating by means of transmission optics.
19. (Withdrawn) A reader according to claim 18, wherein said supports are transported through an optical read volume by a fluidic system.
20. (Withdrawn) A reader to claim 18, in which there are two substantially orthogonal light transmission paths.

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- 21. (Withdrawn) A reader according to claim 20, incorporating one or more fluorescence detectors.
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